

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (Currently Amended). A curtain device mounted on a shaft (2) around which ~~this the~~ curtain (1) may be wound toward an open position and from which it can be unwound toward a closed position, a drive wheel (7) secured coaxially on ~~this the~~ shaft (2) and cooperating with the curtain (1) in such a manner so as to move the latter between these two positions, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the device comprises a flexible oblong control element (11) that cooperates with the drive wheel (7), ~~this said control~~ element (11) being mounted freely in relation to the curtain in such a manner to allow the curtain (1) to be moved between ~~its an~~ open position and ~~its a~~ closed position independently of ~~the~~ slack which may ~~possibly~~ form in the curtain (1), on the one hand, and to be able to move along at least one of the side edges (4) of the curtain (1) and act on the zone (8) of the latter opposite that mounted on the shaft (2), on the other hand, wherein the pitch diameter of the drive wheel (7) is less than the diameter of the wound portion of the curtain (1) in its open position, and is greater than the diameter of the aforementioned shaft (2) or the wound portion of the curtain (1) in its closed position.

2 (Cancelled).

3 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pitch diameter of the drive wheel (7) is greater than or equal to half the sum of the diameter of the wound portion of the curtain (1) in its open position, and of the diameter of the aforementioned shaft (2) or the wound portion of the curtain (1) in its closed position.

4 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~further comprising means ~~are~~ provided to enable a maximum of one coil of the control element (11) to be wound around the drive wheel (7) parallel to a plane perpendicular to the axis (6) of the shaft (2).

5 (Currently Amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the control element (11) is ~~essentially~~ incompressible in terms of its length.

6 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the ~~aforementioned~~ control element (11) is such that it can exert a pushing force on the curtain (1) to bring it to its closed position.

7 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the ~~aforementioned~~ control element (11) comprises an incompressible element in terms of its length.

8 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the drive wheel (7) features a series of bosses or indentations (9) cooperating with the control element (11) and evenly spaced in relation to one another along the periphery of a circle, the center of which is located on the axis (6) of the foresaid wheel (7).

9 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the control element (11) includes an endless tape or chain.

10 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~further comprising means are provided for the curtain (1) to avoid slack from forming in the latter when it is being unwound.

11 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said means to avoid slack include ballasting (22) at the edge of the curtain (1) opposite to that mounted on the aforesaid shaft (2).

12 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the drive wheel is secured coaxially on the shaft (2) in such a manner to be able to travel at the same angular speed as this shaft (2).

13 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it includes~~further comprising guide rails (5) in which the side edges (4) of the curtain (1) and the control element (11) can travel parallel to one another.

14 (Currently Amended). ~~The device according to claim 1, characterized in that~~  
A curtain device mounted on a shaft (2) around which the curtain (1) may be wound toward an open position and from which it can be unwound toward a closed position, a drive wheel (7) secured coaxially on the shaft (2) and cooperating with the curtain (1) in such a manner so as to move the latter between these two positions, wherein the device comprises a flexible oblong control element (11) that cooperates with the drive wheel (7), said control element (11) being mounted freely in relation to the curtain in such a manner to allow the curtain (1) to be moved between its open position and its closed position independently of the slack which may form in the curtain (1), on the one hand, and to be able to move along at least one of the side edges (4) of

the curtain (1) and act on the zone (8) of the latter opposite that mounted on the shaft (2), on the other hand, wherein the drive wheel (7) is such that the control element (11) can be wound spirally on it around its axis of rotation.

15 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 14, wherein~~characterized in that~~ the drive wheel (7) has a truncated conical form such that, during both unwinding and winding of the control element, the linear speed of the latter essentially corresponds to that of the curtain (1) traveling between its open position and its closed position.

16 (Currently amended). The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~further comprising a compensator is mounted on the aforementioned shaft (2) enabling the wound portion of the curtain (1) to be adapted to the travel of the control element (11).